# Mountain Weather Forecast

## Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Sunday 14 Feb 2021 until 23:59 on Monday 15 Feb 2021

Forecast Issued on Saturday 13 Feb 2021 at 16:57

**Confidence:** High for turning milder and remaining unsettled through the period, but lowering confidence in the timing and extend of the worst of the conditions for next week.

**Headline for Sunday 14 Feb 2021:** Unsettled with bands of snow then rain crossing the area. Risk storm force winds across higher summits. Dangerous conditions with extensive drifting and severe wind chill, then quite extensive hill fog.

**Mountain weather hazards on Sunday 14 Feb 2021**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Blizzards**<br>Low Likelihood | **Heavy Snow**<br>No Likelihood | **Storm force winds**<br>Medium Likelihood |
| **Gales**<br>High Likelihood | **Severe chill effect**<br>High Likelihood | **Poor visibility**<br>Medium Likelihood |
| **Thunderstorms**<br>No Likelihood | **Heavy persistent rain**<br>No Likelihood | **Strong sunlight**<br>No Likelihood |

| **Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Time | | | | | | | |
| 00:00 | 03:00 | 06:00 | 09:00 | 12:00 | 15:00 | 18:00 | 21:00 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Light snow | Light snow | Light snow | Light snow | Heavy snow | Sleet | Heavy Rain | Light rain |
| Precipitation probability | | | | | | | |
| 30% | 50% | 40% | 40% | 70% | 70% | 80% | 80% |

**Forecast for Sunday 14 Feb 2021**

**Weather:** A cloudy and unsettled day of change. Patchy light snow and perhaps freezing rain through to mid-morning. Heavier area of snow and rain crossing from the west from late morning, which turns to rain at all levels from around mid-afternoon, with outbreaks becoming patchy and light again for the evening.

**Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m:** 70% at first becoming 10% from mid-day.

**Visibility:** Generally a handful of kilometres in snow and rain, less in heavier snow and cloud with bases becoming extensive from 500-700m from late morning.

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# Mountain Weather Forecast

**Forecast for Sunday 14 Feb 2021**

| Height (m) | Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) | | | | | Wind Direction (blowing from) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 00:00 | 03:00 | 06:00 | 09:00 | 12:00 | 15:00 | 18:00 | 21:00 | 00:00 |
| **900** | 48/58 SE | 50/61 SE | 59/71 SE | 59/72 SE | 64/77 SE | 62/76 S | 56/69 S | 36/46 S | 29/37 S |
| **600** | 45/61 SE | 43/58 SE | 50/66 SE | 50/67 SE | 48/64 SE | 50/68 S | 41/57 S | 34/47 S | 28/38 S |
| **300** | 15/39 SE | 12/38 SE | 17/48 SE | 19/50 SE | 16/48 SE | 16/47 S | 12/39 S | 11/31 S | 9/27 S |
| **Valley** | 13/34 SE | 14/36 SE | 16/42 SE | 18/44 SE | 17/46 SE | 15/42 SE | 14/40 S | 10/27 S | 10/25 S |

| Height (m) | Temperature / Feels Like (°C) | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 00:00 | 03:00 | 06:00 | 09:00 | 12:00 | 15:00 | 18:00 | 21:00 | 00:00 |
| **900** | -5/-17 | -2/-13 | -3/-14 | -2/-14 | -2/-13 | 0/-10 | 1/-8 | 2/-5 | 2/-4 |
| **600** | -4/-16 | -3/-14 | -2/-13 | -2/-12 | -0/-10 | 1/-9 | 2/-6 | 3/-4 | 4/-3 |
| **300** | -2/-8 | -1/-6 | -0/-6 | 1/-6 | 2/-4 | 2/-3 | 4/-0 | 4/0 | 4/1 |
| **Valley** | -0/-6 | 0/-5 | 1/-4 | 2/-3 | 3/-2 | 4/-0 | 5/2 | 6/3 | 6/3 |
| **Freezing Level*** | 00m | 00m | 100m | 300m | 600m | 1300m | 1800m | 1400m | 1300m |

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

**Meteorologist's View**

Dangerous conditions at first with blizzards and extensive drifting of lying snow and severe wind chill at height, with gusts reaching 80mph at times across most exposed ridges and summits. Also later with the hill fog becoming extensive from late morning.

**Forecast for Monday 15 Feb 2021**

**Weather:** Rather cloudy with patchy outbreaks of rain crossing sporadically from the west.

**Maximum wind:** South or southwest mean 25mph with gusts reaching 40mph across most exposed ridges and summits.

**Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m:** 20%

**Visibility:** Moderate or good, lowering to a few kilometres in rain, less in cloud with bases quite extensive from 500-700m.

**Temperature:** **Valleys:** Minus 1 Celsius rising 11 Celsius during the afternoon
**At 800m:** Plus 3-5 Celsius
**Freezing level:** Above summits

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# Mountain Weather Forecast

**Ground Conditions Supplement**

Date: Saturday 13 February, Location: Brown Crag at 10:22. We are continuing to run the service for people exercising locally and to assist local mountain rescue teams to make informed decisions in the event that their services are required. Here is today's report: A decision was made to turn around at roughly 600m from Brown Crag on the western flanks of Whiteside today due to gale to storm-force winds across the high fells. High areas with slopes in the lee of the wind were particularly badly affected by ferocious downslope winds as the air was squeezed and accelerated over the Helvellyn plateau. For anyone venturing out tomorrow, please note that continued severe gale to storm-force winds are in the forecast accompanied by more snow and/or freezing rain. The high fells are in full winter condition and careful planning and preparation is required for anyone venturing above the snowline. Terrain is widely frozen down to valley level and ice is present on paths from low levels upwards, particularly around any drainage lines. Notably, the path leading up to Grisedale Tarn from Dunmail Raise is particularly affected by large areas of ice that are difficult to avoid. The fells in the west of the National Park have generally less snow cover than central and eastern fells. However, on the western side of Helvellyn, the snowline starts at roughly 600m with continuous cover up to summit level. Most of the snow is either old exposed névé (refrozen snow) or scoured with a breakable crust overlying unconsolidated sugary snow. Airborn snow was seen blowing high above the top of Lower Man and Browncove Crags today and being deposited onto its north and northwest facing slopes. Windslab will be developing on similar aspects, particularly at the top of gullies, scarp slopes, and on ridge flanks in the lee of the wind. These are likely to be extremely reactive and should be treated with caution. Even small areas of windslab present a hazard on steep ground as it is not very well bonded to the underlying crust and it would only take a small area of snow to fail to potentially take you off your feet and into a fall. Most of the paths and other terrain and water features above the snowline are buried under the snow and can't be relied upon to find your way if visibility deteriorates. A map and compass and good mountain navigation skills will be essential in such conditions in the coming days. Steep and exposed routes such as Swirral and Striding edge should only be attempted by those with sufficient winter mountaineering experience and appropriate equipment. In any high winds similar to today, they are not advisable! A slip in the wrong place (even on moderately steep ground) could result in a long and damaging fall. Small cornices are present around corrie rims and will become unstable in the milder temperatures that are forecast in the coming week. Extreme care should be taken in areas in close proximity to the corrie rims which might not be visible in cloudy conditions. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots, and additional equipment including an ice axe, crampons/microspikes, headtorch, and survival bag are all essential for anyone going into the higher fells. Goggles will also be essential for navigating safely in windy conditions. Please be conservative with your plans and aware of your limits.Temperature: minus 5.2C. Maximum wind speed 70.7mph. Wind chill: minus 17.9C. Average wind speed: 52.1mph.

Issued at: 1657 on Sat 13 Feb 2021

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